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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

SUBJECT Official Report on the Ostrava-Karvinna Coalfield

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booklet dated March 1957

which was issued by the Technical Economic Publicity Department of the Ostrava-Karvinna coal mining combine. The booklet gives a brief historical description of this coalfield, outlines the production goals for the coalfield in 1958, 1959, 1960, and plans for the remote future. Data is given on the percentage of coal cut and loaded by combines and mechanical loaders, and output per man and per mining team. Extensive data is provided on manpower available in the coalfield, and plans for mechanization. A schematic map shows the name and location of mines in the coalfield.

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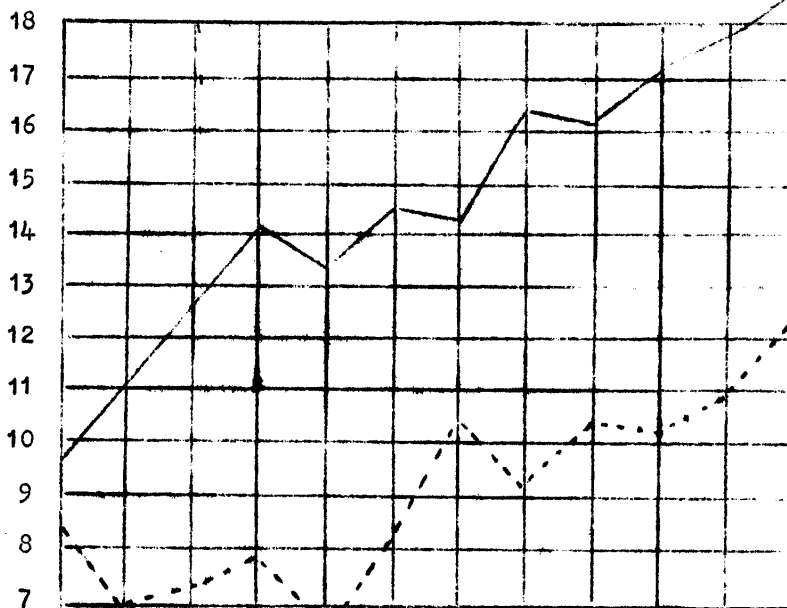
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The following is a translation of a booklet issued by the Technical
Economic Publicity Department of the O.K.D. Combine under date March 1957.

Historical

The first bituminous coal was won in the OSTRAVA coalfield (at JAIHOVEC) in 1768 at a depth of 20 feet. After the founding of the VITKOVICE Iron Works in 1830, production was raised to 600,000 tons in 1862, with 7,000 workers. In 1900, 5,800,000 tons were raised; and in 1916, employing 37,000 miners, output neared 11 million tons from the OSTRAVA coal mines. The greatest production ever achieved up to the present date was the 20 million tons of 1943 under wartime direction of the Germans.

Coal raised in millions of tons :

--- 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929
 — 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956

General In spite of plans for increases of coal production in 1957 and in the succeeding years, even then not enough will be provided for full development of the Czechoslovak economy. (Summary of report by Boh. Dolansky to the Communist Party, 27th Feb. 1957)

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In 1957 the intended increase for the whole State is 4.6 million tons, made up of 1 million tons of hard coal and 3.6 million tons of brown coal and lignite.

Tasks for the Ostrava-Karvinna Field (OKR)

In 1958 raise	21,539,000 tons of coal
In 1959 "	22,627,000 " " "
In 1960 "	24,940,000 " " "

and by the end of the 3rd 5-Year Plan 31,523,800 tons. By far the greater part of the coal raised during the 2nd 5-Year Plan will come from mines already in existence, the oldest of the pits being the Ed. Urz (1835), Stalin (1840), Bezruc (1842), Trojice and Zarubek (1845), and Vitezny unor (1847). The Mir, Armada, Stachanov and Klubina pits have also celebrated their 100th anniversary. In 1959 5% of the total output will come from newly re-constructed mines, and in 1960 10%. Parallel with the constant raising of output there must be preparation of new coal-getting capacity.

Coming back to 1957 : It is urgent to maintain high production during the summer months, to raise an additional 300,000 tons, and to prepare the mines for the work of subsequent years. All this demands far better use of the existing mechanical equipment and unremitting improvements in the organisation work.

Progress in fulfilling the task

Year	Coal broken down and loaded by combined cutter-loaders		Coal broken down with mechanical cutters	
	Tons	% of total output	tons	% of total output
1949	-	-	4,202.000	33,9
1950	-	-	5,626.000	41,4
1951	45.000	0,3	5,534.000	41,4
1952	161.000	1,1	6,137.000	41,-
1953	289.000	1,9	6,415.000	43,2
1954	647.000	4,2	7,223.000	45,5
1955	1,012.000	6,1	8,138.000	49,3
1956	1,184.000	6,8	7,914.000	45,5

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Quantities loaded mechanically :

In 1954	505,210 cu.m. of mineral
1955	543,070 cu.m. " "
1956	606,773 cu.m. " "

Output from faces employing work-cycle:

In 1954	10,230,662 tons
1955	11,130,829 tons
1956	11,819,050 tons

Outputs per man and per team

The above successes could be made still greater if the experience gained by the best workers could be put into practice throughout the coalfield. For example : In the past year 146 teams of hewers advanced the coal-face by 37.2 metres a month, i.e. by 20 metres more than for instance the average monthly advance in England. Nevertheless, the average advance for the whole coalfield is only 30.2 metres. Why ? Because at the other 116 faces they have managed only 25 metres.

The cutter-loader team headed by comrade MONAREZ achieved outputs of 20,347 and 27,287 tons in its record months, whereas the overall average per cutter-loader combine per month in the whole field is only 6,350 tons. These varying results are due not only to deficiencies in the organisation of work but also to the uneven qualifications of the workers. The essential condition for improving skill lies in stabilising the labour force. A period of one year is decidedly too short for a recruit to become a qualified miner. Consider the following facts : Taking productivity in tons per worker in 1950 as 100%, then it is true that by the end of 1956 the productivity had been raised by 8.9%; but a comparison of figures for the separate years reveals substantial fluctuations in the increase, viz.:-

In the year	Against the year	% increase in productivity
1951	1950	- 1.8
1952	1951	+ 9.8
1953	1952	- 6.1
1954	1953	+ 1.4
1955	1954	+ 5.4
1956	1955	+ 0.6

Following the decline in 1951, productivity increased in 1952 by 9.8 %. Here it must be noted that the increase was primarily brought about by Sunday output (4.7% of the total), and was obtained without any increase in the labour force. The fall in productivity during 1953 resulted from the so-called "increased metre-run" operation, which assured a sufficiency of working faces. Then again the small measure of increase in 1954 was

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caused in part by the extension of the OTK (technical) service in connexion with the detailed sampling of the coal for ash-content during introduction of the so-called standard coal-getting. The considerable growth in productivity in 1955 followed a necessary decrease in the number of shifts devoted particularly to non-productive tasks. Once again then in 1956 the increase was checked by intensified preparatory work.

Take a look at the following Table:

Turnover of labour force in the OKR:

Year	Workers newly engaged	Workers left the coalfield
1947	13.947	13.074
1948	23.196	19.828
1949	22.736	22.251
1950	31.367	27.064
1951	34.452	31.020
1952	25.249	30.112
1953	26.877	24.440
1954	28.468	28.220
1955	24.587	23.451
1956	26.760	25.843

In the aggregate during the decade 257,643 new workers came to the OKR. The great majority of them had first to learn the miner's trade. In the same period 245,023 men left the coalfield after at least one year's experience. (See map at Appendix "A" showing location of the pits - about half of which appear to have been re-named after 1945).

Stabilisation of the labour force.

- This depends upon 1) the correct selection of recruits for the pits
and 2) their satisfaction with the working conditions, including wages, and with their life out of working hours.

On the one hand there are numerous cases of men from other occupations who have shown their ability to succeed underground. There is hardly one amongst the first-rate teams in the coalfield today that does not include at least one-third of newcomers to the industry. In many such teams new workers form the majority. On the other hand, on certain days during the summer months unexcused absenteeism reaches a figure of 3-4,000 in the whole OKR.

Wages:

In 1956 the average monthly wage of underground workers was 2,224 Czech crowns and of surface workers 1,556 crowns; whilst the average monthly wage in industry for the whole country was 1,322 crowns.

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In comparison with 1956 the proportion of coal loaded mechanically by cutter-loaders, coal-ploughs and hydraulic machines will be 4 times as great in 1960. There will be a great increase in the cyclical working of coal faces and in quick-cutting tunnelling machines. Over 55 kilometres of galleries will be propped with helical shuttering. There will be an increase in dustless boring, boring under spray and under water infusion. Coal getting with the combined Donbass machines is being systematically increased; and there is an expansion in the number of faces which will be coaled by scraper. In the year 1957 a further 2 Anderton combined machines will be added to the 2 existing ones, with which our crews are obtaining as many as 7 cycles in 24 hours. Next year (1958) we shall import 5 more Anderton machines and shall also construct 5 ourselves. For inclined seams the Jupa cutter-loader has been found suitable; in the course of 2 shifts it has stripped 185 metres of face. In the present year (1957) our mines will receive 6 of these combined machines, and next year a further 4. In the present year our coalfield will be supplied with one, and next year with 3, complete coal-ploughs. Ploughs of our own construction will be made (also. Besides the above combined machines there will be Gornak, Donbass and UKM machines in use. In the present year face-illumination will be introduced at two sites; next year the number of directly lighted coal faces will be raised to at least 15.

For tunnelling preparatory work "micro-delayed" shot-firing has been found very effective. This year 1,200,000 metre/second (?) detonators will be used, and next year 7,000,000.

High-speed tunnelling

With a high admixture of stone the following achievements have been recorded year by year :

1954	Ochmansk's team	tunnelled	112 metres	at one heading
1955	Kupec's	" "	147.5 "	" " " "
1956	Tverdon's	" "	156 "	" " " "
1956	Ondik's	" "	176 "	" " " "
1956	Tverdon's	" "	230 "	" " " "
1957	Haralik's	" "	251.5 "	" " " "
1957	Bohao's	" "	317 "	" " " "

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Quantities won with cutter-loaders:

In February 1954 V. Krejci's team got	11,264 tons of coal in one month
In May 1954 the same team got	15,030 " " " " " "
In 1955 Snapky's team got	16,881 " " " " " "
A year later Bogocz's team got	18,163 " " " " " "
In December 1956 Mynarez' team was the first to exceed the figure of	20,000 " " " " " "
and in May 1957 it achieved the world record of	27,287 " " " " " "

The initial quantity of 6.93 tons hewn per man/shift had been raised to 12.8 tons.

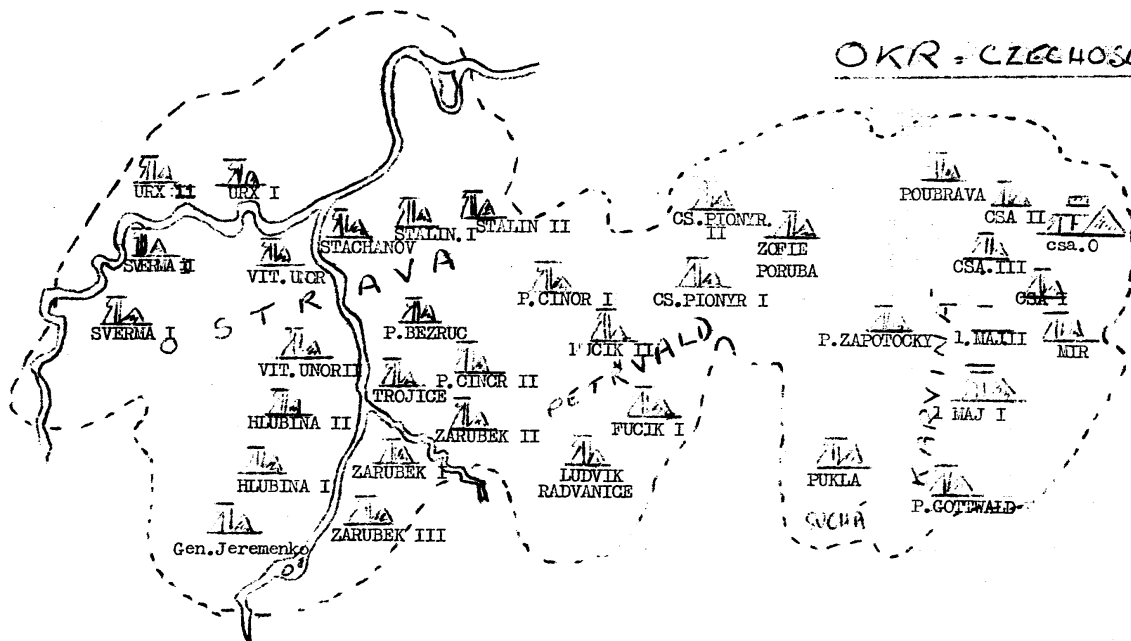
Through the schools at each mine the remarkable skill of the most successful miners in the OKR is spread as far as possible amongst other workers.

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Appendix "A"

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